



Business Reception FKCCI

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Thursday, August 22, 2013

5:30 p.m.

FKCCI Cabinet Hall -- Bangalore

Good evening.

I'm Jan Brewer, Governor of Arizona.

First, I must say how exciting it is to be in India this week, and in Bangalore. You have all made me feel so very welcome, and I thank you for that.

I always look forward to any opportunity to discuss one of MY favorite topics – and an issue of universal importance -- economic prosperity!

This occasion is a wonderful platform to explore the many business opportunities between Arizona and Karnataka.

I'm also pleased to have brought with me a delegation of distinguished Arizona government and corporate leaders.

With the collaboration of some of the brightest business minds Arizona and India have to offer, I have no doubt this reception will be mutually worthwhile and beneficial.

Together, we will explore what business strengths, challenges and solutions we might share.

The outcomes of these conversations hold great promise for both Arizona and for India.

And I assure you ... when it comes to economic growth and business savvy ... you can trust Arizona.

Since I've been Governor, I've made it a personal mission to make Arizona the best place in the United States to do business.

It gives me great pride to say that Arizona has cultivated one of our nation's fastest-growing economies. We are rebounding from our recession much more quickly than most other states.

And – given where we started when I first became Governor – that says a lot about our work ethic and focus on improving business in Arizona.

When I took office in 2009, I inherited a 3 Billion dollar budget deficit. It was deemed one of the worst budget crises in the United States!

Today, Arizona is running a surplus of more than one Billion dollars!

That success is no accident. Our steady recovery – something I like to call, “the Arizona Comeback” – is the result of responsible, targeted reforms.

You see, in Arizona, we are laser focused on recovery and growth.

We've worked hard these past few years to make Arizona a beacon for economic prosperity.

We've pursued leaner regulations ... implemented a competitive tax policy ... and created a state government that removes barriers rather than creating them.

In Arizona, we respect the free market. We promote competition. And we foster job creation.

Our state is adding jobs at the fastest clip in years.

Arizona is now rated the nation's best state for entrepreneurs and among the Top 10 for business owners.

Forbes Magazine ranks us Number Two for business growth prospects.

We've added other tools to grow our economy.

We established the Arizona Commerce Authority to attract companies and jobs.

I am pleased that ACA president and CEO Sandra Watson is here with me to highlight our strong business climate.

Since its inception, the ACA has helped attract more than one and a half Billion dollars in capital investment – and it's only 2 years old!

In just a few short years, Arizona has created more than 160,000 new jobs. The ACA has been instrumental in attracting thousands of those.

Together, we are committed to developing a talented workforce – attracting foreign investment – and creating quality jobs.

India is one of Arizona's top 25 trade partners. We export 81 Million dollars in products here, and import 167 Million dollars in goods from India.

As the world economy recovers, it's more important than ever to boost trade among countries.

In the past eight years, the value of global trade in goods has grown by an average annual rate of 12 percent.

That's twice as fast as the global GDP.

As our state continues to rebound, one thing has become increasingly clear: Arizona is where global and domestic businesses come to excel.

- **We're focused on creating and maintaining an education system that best prepares students for success after graduation. Our first-rate universities are testament to that.**
- **We're working to make sure our workforce remains large and skilled;**
- **We have low payroll taxes;**
- **We offer a strategic location;**
- **And we have *some* of the most aggressive incentives to benefit high quality companies.**

As Governor, I want to foster opportunities that strengthen bi-lateral relationships. That's what this experience is all about.

Enhanced international partnerships mean more opportunities for Arizona businesses to launch and expand – and for businesses to expand in Arizona.

Today, I was privileged to tour NICE's Bangalore-Mysore Expressway. When complete, it will cut travel time in half between these growing innovation centers.

Arizona has a similar infrastructure proposal to strengthen our trade corridor with Mexico and Canada. I look forward to sharing what I learned from Mr. Kheny and his team with my Trade and Transportation Alliance.

Our future is in the growth of high-tech sector trade.

India has great opportunity to expand in the aerospace and defense industries – in renewable energy, in biosciences and optics ... fields that offer quality, high-paying jobs.

The global economy requires that we be increasingly cooperative, and I remain steadfastly committed to further strengthening the mutually beneficial relationship between Arizona and our valued partner, India.

That is why I am here with you today.

And, I thank the government and business leaders in this room for joining me, and for your warm greeting.

I know I will return to Arizona with a deeper understanding and appreciation of everything Arizona and India have to offer one another.

So, with that, I thank you for helping to write yet another page in Arizona's continued economic success story.

We certainly hope we can do the same for you.